

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 SAJ-01 OMB-01 EB-08 TRSE-00 ACDA-07
/098 W

-----092130Z 112460 /63

R 091503Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1545
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2420

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PINR EG
SUBJECT: MUHAMMAD HASANAYN HAYKAL'S CURRENT LINE

1. HAYKAL IS PLEASED AS PUNCH. AS EARLY AS TWO YEARS AGO HE HAD PREDICTED TO FLOOD OF GUESTS WHO CALL ON HIM IN CAIRO AS WELL AS TO ARABS HE MET ON HIS 1976 PENINSULAR TOUR THAT THE "STREET" WILL RISE AGAINST SADAT. IN CRUDEST TERMS, HE HAS BEEN PEDDLING LINE THAT SADAT'S FOREIGN POLICY WILL NOT SUCCEED BECAUSE (A) AMERICA WILL NOT COME THROUGH WITH THE NEEDED AID OR WITH REAL PRESSURE ON ISRAEL AND (B) RICH ARABS WILL NOT COME THROUGH WITH REQUISITE FINANCING. SADAT'S DOMESTIC POLICY, FOUNDED ON EXPECTATIONS OF TREMENDOUS INJECTIONS ARAB MONEY, IS ALSO, THEREFORE DOOMED TO FAILURE. HAYKAL HAD ACTUALLY BEEN PREDICTING A POPULAR REVOLUTION AGAINST SADAT. WHILE THIS HAS NOT OCCURRED, JANUARY RIOTS FIT NICELY INTO HIS THESIS AND HE IS SAYING SO TO HIS HIGH LEVEL VISITORS.

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2. LAST WEEK HAYKAL TOLD VISITING US JOURNALIST THAT HE VIEWS RECENT EVENTS AS A PRELUDE. SADAT HAS CAST HIMSELF IN THE ROLE OF ONE FORCED TO MAKE CONCESSIONS--TO IMF, TO THE STREET IN RESCINDING THE PRICE DECISIONS, TO HIS ARTICULATE STUDENT AND LABOR CRITICS BY MEETING THEM IN DIALOGUE OF EQUALS--AND HAS THEREBY GIVEN IMPRESSION OF HAVING LOST CONFIDENCE. IN SO DOING, SADAT HAS VIOLATED AN ENDURING PRINCIPLE OF EGYPTIAN

POLITICS: THE NEED FOR A PHARAONIC FIGURE AT THE TOP. THIS WILL UNDERMINE PEOPLE'S CONFIDENCE IN HIM, ULTIMATELY TO POINT THAT HIS LEGITIMACY WILL VANISH. ARMY PERCEIVES THIS, HAYKAL THEORIZES. THEY HANDED COUNTRY BACK TO HIM FIRST TIME THEY WERE CALLED UPON; A SECOND TIME, THEY WILL SURELY KEEP IT "AS IS TRUE EVERYWHERE IN THE THIRD WORLD."

3. COMMENT: WITH SECURITY SITUATION MORE DELECATO THAN EVER HAYKAL'S FRIENDS BETTER WATCH OUT. WHILE IT IS UNLIKELY SADAT WOULD MAKE SERIOUS PR MISTAKE OF TRYING TO MUZZLE HIM, IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT PRESIDENT WILL VIEW WITH MORE JAUNDICED EYE THAN USUAL THOSE WHO GO TO WORSHIP AT HAYKAL'S ALTAR.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 09-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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TAGS: PINT, PINR, EG, (HAYKAL, MUHAMMAD HASANAYN)
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